

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 914

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to commend Representative Johnnie Turner for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Johnnie Turner of Memphis is one such distinguished public servant who has served both her constituency and this legislative body with honor and ability; and

WHEREAS, Johnnie Turner distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 85<sup>th</sup> House District, whom she has served as a member of the 106<sup>th</sup>, 107<sup>th</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup>, 109<sup>th</sup>, and 110<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Representative Turner is a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, throughout her service in the House of Representatives, Johnnie Turner has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes her conscience; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during her time in the General Assembly, Representative Turner rendered sterling service as a member of the House Transportation Committee, the House Education Administration and Planning Committee, the House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee, the House

Consumer and Human Resources Committee, the House Consumer and Human Resources Subcommittee, the House Government Operations Committee, the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee, the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, the House General Subcommittee of Children and Family Affairs, the House Education Committee, the House K-12 Subcommittee, and the House Consumer Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, a devoted mother and grandmother, Johnnie Turner is a retired educator and former civil rights advocate administrator, and she has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and leading by example; and

WHEREAS, Representative Turner is a founding member and past president of the Memphis Alliance of Black School Educators, and she is a member of the Memphis Retired Teachers Association and the United Teaching Profession; and

WHEREAS, an executive committee member of the NAACP Tennessee State Conference, she gives back to her community through her work with the Memphis/Shelby County Anti-Predatory Lending Coalition and the Westwood Neighborhood Association; she serves on the board of The New Memphis Arena Building Authority (PBA), served on the advisory board of the Memphis Juvenile Court System, and is a past vice chair of the Health, Educational, and Housing Facility Board of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, treasurer of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, Representative Turner is a member of Women in Government and the Council of State Government and a Leadership Memphis alumna; she serves as secretary of the LeMoyne-Owen National Alumni Association and is a past president of the Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Johnnie Turner evinces her devout religious faith as a member of Greater Middle Baptist Church, which she serves as a member of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Representative Turner is the recipient of the 2017 Be the Dream Award; the 2017 Political Action Award from the Tennessee State Conference of NAACP branches; the Women of Excellence Award from the *Tri-State Defender*; the Friend of Education Award from the Memphis Education Association; the 2015 Pacesetters Award from the Women Legislators' Lobby; the 2014 Legislator of the Year Award from The Arc

Mid-South; the 2010 Tennessee Truth Teller Award from Tennesseans for Fair Taxation; the Highland Area Renewal Corp's HARPAngels Award for her support of neighborhoods; the Ruby R. Wharton Award for Outstanding Service in Race Relations from Mayor A C Wharton; the Women Making a Difference Award and the Lois DeBerry Servant Leader Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; the Addie G. Owen Racial Justice Award from the YWCA of Greater Memphis; the Freedom Award for Community Service from the University of Memphis Chapter of the NAACP; the Legends of Memphis Award for Community Involvement from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Memphis Chapter; the Steadfastness in Pursuit of Freedom and Justice award from the Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival, Inc.; an honor expressing appreciation for her relentless and dedicated service in the fight for justice in civil rights and human dignity from the Tennessee State Conference NAACP; the Living Legends Award from the Northeast Region of the NAACP; and the Living Legends Award from the Memphis Grizzlies and the National Civil Rights Museum; she was inducted into the Shelby County Schools' Hall of Fame in 2017, and she was honored by Mid-South Kwanzaa, Inc., for her community service; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a Memphis "Freedom Sister" at the National Civil Rights Museum, Johnnie Turner was featured in *You Can't Kill the Dream: People Living the Dream*, written by Ande Yakstis and Daniel Brannan and the PBS documentary *Memories of the March*, in which she was interviewed as one of the two people from Memphis who participated in the 1963 March on Washington; she was listed in the annual "100 Most Influential Movers and Shakers in Memphis" in *Memphis* magazine from 1997 through 2009; and

WHEREAS, Johnnie Turner received her Bachelor of Science degree from LeMoyne-Owen College and her Master of Education degree from the University of Memphis; she completed post-graduate studies at the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, throughout her outstanding career as a public servant, Johnnie Turner has worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Representative Johnnie Turner is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized for her exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Johnnie Turner for her meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives, commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 85<sup>th</sup> House District, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.